

Kathy: This is Kathy Berg visiting Wendell F. Hutchinson at his home in Salida on April 4th, 2004. It's Sunday evening, about 7:45, and we're here again. This time, Hutch, I think I just want you to tell me some stories. We had talked about, after the machine went off last time, we started talking about some things like the Murdochs ...

Hutch: McPherson, yeah.

Kathy: The sawmill, and your very famous cousin, Robert Cummings. I just thought it'd be fun to hear some tales from Hutch. You go ahead and pick whatever thing you want to talk about, and I'm here to listen.

Hutch: [00:01:00] Right now, I guess I'll start the Murdoch McPherson thing. He crossed the Plains in 1860 with his brother, John Duncan McPherson. John Duncan McPherson, he's my great great grandfather, and also with him in this wagon train was his wife. Her name was Helen. Helen, she was also a McPherson, but she was supposed to have been not related. She was born in Edinburgh, and John Duncan's family came from Inverness, Scotland. They came to visit America. Came to America, and then next I hear of them they were at Riga, New York.

Kathy: Raga?

Hutch: R-I-G-A. Riga, New York. Ever hear of it?

Kathy: I have.

Hutch: You have. Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yes.

[00:02:00]

Kathy: Do you know anything about it?

Hutch: No, I don't know a thing. There's a friend of mine, his name is ... I'll think about it. Anyway, he said his school bus used to go through Riga every day when he was in school at Riga, New York, and I'm not sure where it is. I think somewhere in central rural New York.

[00:03:00] The McPherson family had 3 kids. The oldest one was Charles. Charles Henry McPherson. The second one was my great grandmother, Annabelle McPherson. She was 12 years old when she crossed the Plains. Then along in that same party was little John McPherson who was only, I think, 5 years old at the time. They left Riga, New York in the mid-1850's and then went to Mattawan. I think it was Michigan. Mattawan, Michigan.

Kathy: Matawa?

Hutch: Mattawan, I think. Mattawan.

Kathy: Do you know how to spell that?

Hutch: M-A-T-A-W-A-N, I guess. I guess.

Kathy: Mattawan. Okay.

Hutch: They were there about 2 years, then they went to Sparta, Wisconsin and they decided to go west when they heard about the gold strikes in Colorado. That was in 1859. The Gold Rush in California was 1849, but this was 1859.

Kathy: We're always about 10 years behind here, huh.

Hutch: Yeah, about 10 years behind. Yeah, 10 years behind. Oh well. Crossing the Plains in the party with them was Murdoch McPherson. One of my little grandsons I named Murdoch after this particular ... Don't talk with your hands.

[00:04:00]

Kathy: You don't like this machine, do you? Here, I'll put it over here. Go ahead. Talk with your hands.

Hutch: Murdoch, anyway, had brought his sawmill across the Plains with them, and there was a big boiler. It created steam to run the sawmill. They didn't have electricity or gasoline then, but the steam run the sawmill. That crossed the Plains, but Annabelle, when she was talking to my great uncle, and he wrote that in the many times they talked on the Plains, and they could see the silhouette of this big boiler which was part of the sawmill.

[00:05:00]

Murdoch then, they got west and they went to Oro City, the McPhersons did, and it was the early mining, one of the earliest places in Colorado where they found gold. Abe Lee was saying he was working his pan, and he said, "I've got all of California right here in this here pan." Big excitement took place and then that's when many people then came. They called it California Gulch when he said, "Oh, I've got all of California right here in this pan." They called it California Gulch, and it's up near Leadville.

[00:06:00]

Then they stayed there, the McPhersons, about 5 years, and then went down to Cache Creek, and then finally to a place named after my great grandmother called Helena on the river, on the Arkansas River just below Buena Vista, about where Fisherman's Bridge is today.

Kathy: I know where that is.

Hutch: To get on with the McPherson ... The Murdoch McPherson part of it, there was a man, Henry Harkins, that caught with that same wagon train across the Plain. Henry Harkins. He was apparently an older man. Little Johnny McPherson fell out of the big McPherson wagon, I guess, and the wheel, I think it was the hind wheel was about ready to go over him when Harkins called out, "Whoa," and stopped them. They said, "What? What happened?" "Well, little Johnny is under the wheel," but it didn't go over him. He was credited with saving little John.

Kathy: Wow.

Hutch: They got to Canon City about 1860, and then I think they stayed there pretty
[00:07:00] much the winter, and the next spring, they went to California Gulch, Oro City up by Leadville. It wasn't Leadville, then.

Then, in 1863 Murdoch McPherson and a man by the name of Bassett, I'm not sure right now what his first name was, but the Bassett family lived not too far out of West Nile, Colorado Spring. There's a gulch up there called Dead Man's Canyon, it's on Highway 114 as you come out of-

Kathy: 115-

Hutch: Yeah, you're right. It is, you're right, it's 115. When they were constructing this
[00:08:00] road, they went over this graveyard and took the body out and put it on the hillside, and if you're going down there today you can see where they buried this man, and it was Murdoch ... It was not Murdoch. It was Henry Harkins. The man that had saved little John.

He was treating his cabin there in the gulch. Putting mud or whatever they put in it ... Putting in with mud I think. Murdoch McPherson and Bassett were setting the sawmill up, and whether it was the same sawmill that Murdoch crossed the Plains with or not, very probably.

Anyway, they were setting it up there, they came in and found Harkins's head split open with an ax, and also his body was pumped with little bullet holes. He had been buried right in the road there, and when the road was redone, they found it and exhumed his body.

[00:09:00] My Great Uncle Art had a letter that, from the state highway department, confirming the fact that they found the body. They did honor it. They put the grave up with a little fence and you can see it today right there at the mouth of this Dead Man's Canyon. They used to have a dated historical marker on the road commemorating the event, but it's been torn down for some reason.

Kathy: Did they avenge the murderers?

Hutch: They thought when Murdoch and Bassett came down that evening to check on
[00:10:00] him, on Harkins, they found him of course, head split open, and they thought it was Indians, and they thought he'd been tommy hawked. They took off to Bassett's farm which wasn't too far away, 3 or 4 miles maybe, went down there, and then the next day they came back up with a bunch of friends and neighbors to the camp to see, and by then someone had heard that this was the work of the Espinosa Brothers. The Espinosas came in the west about that time, over on Hardscrabble Creek, you go into the Wet Mountain Valley they call it which is ...

Kathy: Westcliffe?

Hutch: Westcliffe and Silver Cliff. They went over the hill there, you go down the Hardscrabble Creek, but a man by the name of David Bruce had been mutilated
[00:11:00] by someone. Apparently by these same Espinosas. They went up, the next one, or maybe, I don't know of any other ones that were killed in between, but they got up there and murdered Harkins. They did the next day, the people, Bassett and Murdoch McPherson buried. They went ahead and buried him there in what was later the road. Then the state highway reburied him.

Going on, I don't know much more about Murdoch except I heard he went to a place in New Mexico, and I think it was called White Oaks. White Oaks, New Mexico. He set a sawmill up down there and he sawed lumber for people, and his wife wrote my great uncle. I saw a letter. It said, "We're not doing very good here." He said, "People won't pay their bills. Must not have any money, I suppose." Wouldn't pay their bills. Said they were on hard times.

[00:12:00]

Kathy: That was your Uncle Art that he wrote to?

Hutch: It was Uncle Art that he wrote to. I did, one of the things if I can find it, if I can still find the letter the state highway wrote to him about that.

Kathy: That'd be interesting to have.

Hutch: Anyway, in the letter also that Murdoch's wife wrote to Uncle Art about the hard times they were having down there. As I understand it, Murdoch died there and his wife, too. But I've never found White Oaks, New Mexico on a map, so I'm not sure of exactly where it was in New Mexico. I imagine up somewhere in northern New Mexico.

Kathy: Maybe a very small, small town.

Hutch: Really small town. The Espinosas, then you know, they went out through South
[00:13:00] Park and killed a lonely rancher there. They knocked over into the California gulch country and the early miners there, including Charles Nachtrieb who was ... Nathrop, Colorado was named after Charles Nachtrieb.

Today in the county here there's still a Chris Nachtrieb who was a great grandson of this early Nachtrieb there. Nachtrieb, Joe Lamb, and some others formed the posse and they found these Espinosas. They saw them up on a hill, almost the top of a peak, and told Lamb, whose family lives over in the Wet Mountain Valley, not too far from Silver Cliff. They kind of have some farmland over there, I still think they go by the name of Lamb, their last name.
[00:14:00]

Joe Lamb shot one of the Espinosas and killed him. The other Espinosas then took off, went back to New Mexico, got a nephew, he said a 15-year-old nephew also named Espinosa and came back in the San Luis Valley. There's a lot of Hispanics over there. They didn't raid the Hispanics but they killed several

White folks, they called them. Anglo family. They mutilated them. The Army was called in, and they got a guide to go help find where these Espinosas were.

[00:15:00] The guide was very apt, he was a frontiersman. At the moment I've just forgotten his name. Not Dick Wooton.

Kathy: It's all right, it'll come back to you. You're allowed to forget.

Hutch: I'm lousy.

Kathy: No you're not.

Hutch: Anyway, they went up there with two Army men, he did. He tracked him down and he said, "Here are your Espinosas," and the two Army men shot two or three times and missed. He said, "Give me the gun," and he shot both of them. Not with a single shot, but with-

Kathy: Right.

Hutch: With two.

Kathy: Two shots.

Hutch: Two bullets I guess. Then, they got a reward. He brought the heads back. He cut their heads off, the Espinosas heads off and put them in a gunnysack. Carried them in on his horse. He got back to Fort Garland, and they were having a dance, a ball there. He took the sack by the bottom and rolled the heads out. Can you imagine?

[00:16:00] Kathy: No.

Hutch: It sounds like a fairy tale, doesn't it? He rolled the heads out on the floor.

Kathy: Make a good movie.

Hutch: He said to the commander there, "Here are your Espinosas."

Kathy: Wow. That's a story. You said you had something to say about the sawmill.

Hutch: Oh, the saw-

Kathy: Is it a good story?

Hutch: The sawmill?

Kathy: Yeah.

Hutch: That was this-

Kathy: That was this one? Oh, okay because he had the sawmill. Oh, okay.

Hutch: He crossed the Plains with the thing. They were setting it up, I think, in Dead Man's Canyon. That's when the Espinosas came in to the camp.

Kathy: Do you have any idea what it looked like? How can you carry a sawmill around with you?

[00:17:00]

Hutch: Well, yeah. Just as you go out of Salida on the right, the Wilkin's have a sawmill there. You're going out of Salida, and on the right you see lumber and timber that's been sawed up up there, and there's a sawmill. The sawmills have a big circular blade saw, and it's run by a motor. Then they put these boards on a pole, the other side of the telephone pole, or ponderosa pine, whatever, spruce maybe. They run them through the saw, and it saws them into planks and boards.

[00:18:00] Depending on how far you set it, you can make boards out of them, 1-inch, or make 2-inch boards, even 3, according to the width you want for the board.

Kathy: Oh, I guess I just thought of a sawmill as a big building and all of that, but I see what you're saying now. Yeah. Let's hear about your cousin, Robert Cummings.

Hutch: The Joseph Hutchinson in my family fought in the Civil War, and he was at Vicksburg with Grant. He was born in England. Huddersfield, England, or near Huddersfield. I think Honley. Honley, England.

Kathy: Honley?

[00:19:00] Hutch: He was born, according to the gravestone, December 31, 1837. Then he came across the ocean in a boat, ship, sailing that's with sails and all about oh, about 1842 or '43. I think they landed in Baltimore, and then they kind of went inland and eventually got to Maysville, Kentucky. Both his mother and father died of cholera, which was very prevalent. As far as I know, this Joseph Hutchinson's mom and dad. I think he was John Hutchinson and his wife died there about 1849, and they're buried at Maysville, Kentucky. We have a Maysville ...

Kathy: Right, you're confusing me.

Hutch: Right here. Yeah. I don't know if this Maysville was named after that Maysville or not.

Kathy: I don't know.

Hutch: Could be I suppose.

Kathy: This was just a little boy left without parents, huh?

[00:20:00]

Hutch: Yeah, so he was left without his parents. He went to work for a couple of uncles up in Southern Indiana. Their name was Scofield. I think there was an Arthur Scofield and a John Scofield. There was eight kids in the family I think, and half of them went with one brother, and half with the other. They were farmers. That's where my Joseph grew up.

[00:21:00]

When the Civil War came on he volunteered and was in the 18th Indiana Infantry, 1ED. Most of the time he was stationed around Vicksburg, and was there when Grant finally captured Vicksburg. He lost a lot of men trying to do it, and the only reason the people there were ... He starved them out actually. They couldn't get food in, but they still controlled the Mississippi River.

Once they finally made him surrender then the Union forces had the whole Mississippi River under their control. I think it was maybe around 1863. I think not too far distant from Gettysburg, whatever date that was. I think it was 18', I think it was ... Do you know?

Kathy: We need to get a history book out, don't we.

Hutch:
[00:22:00]

We do. Okay. I think it was right near the third and fourth of July when Gettysburg was ... I think Vicksburg succumbed about the same time. It'd be the same Grant, then. General Grant. Ulysses Grant kind of started his campaign. It took him another, from '63 on until about '65 they still had to fight it out. Then Lee and Grant finally signed a truce there at Appomattox Courthouse I think in 1865.

Then Joseph Hutchinson, after that they said, according to the records, he spent some time at New Orleans, as Provost Marshall, whatever that means. Then they also said he was in the Texas campaign. I think they went out there, the Union soldiers trying to fight little bands of Confederate resistors, and he was in that also.

[00:23:00]

Then he came West right after the Civil War in 1866 and was up at Cache Creek, which is up by Granite, and he worked for James Gaff and Bailey. I think maybe we told you that before. James Gaff had a packing plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. Then Bailey, William F. Bailey, worked for Sadler & Bailey, a commission firm. Kind of a go-between. Between the three of them they each put in \$10,000 into the enterprise, and at the height of their operation they had about 5,000 head of cow.

[00:24:00]

Then, they kind of flourished through the 1870s. Then they begin to get a lot of competition from other ranchers that came in with their cows, too. My great grandfather then he had served in the Colorado government as a territorial legislator representative before 1876, when Colorado became a state he served it also as a representative. He represented Lake and Chaffee Counties, Park County, and I think ... I don't know exactly how many, but he was rather a

[00:25:00] prominent man. Then he was a Chaffee County Commissioner from about 1881 to '82. Then he died, I think about May the 15th, 1882. He was buried in the Hollenbeck Cemetery over here.

Incidentally, in the Lake County war the Boons were buried their too. Several families were. They started irrigating around there and it got wet, so a lot of the graves were dug up. They went over there with their wagons and the women had picnic lunches for them. They dug up the body, the coffins, what was left of them and moved them up to Poncha. They're up there now in our graveyard.

[00:26:00] Annabelle and Joseph are there. My mother and dad are buried there. My two great uncles, Arthur and Bailey, are buried there. Joseph Mills, the sheriff is there and his wife Gertrude. Then Helen McPherson, who crossed the Plains in the 1850s is there. Young Johnny, the one that fell out of the wagon, he died in 1922. He's buried up there. I recently had a stone made for him because he used to have just kind of a little board for a grave marker. I thought he deserved better than that. He was buried there also at Poncha.

Kathy: Now what is a Hollenbeck Cemetery? Is that Clearview?

Hutch: Hollenbeck was a very prominent person in the county here. He owned quite a bit of land and we had some seeping ditches along here called the Hollenbeck Seep Ditches. It's main headquarters was just below where the Valley View schoolhouse is. If you go up County Road 140, you go right where the schoolhouse is, you take a left off and turn, go up the road, and that's where many of the early settlers were buried until they dug them up and moved them. I think the most active place about 1885, somewhere in there, when they moved them.

[00:27:00] I went up there the other day and talked to Karl Martellaro. He and his wife run that Hollenbeck Ranch for 40 years. At least that's what he said he did. I believe it. Anyway, he said that he took all the fences up and bulldozed those old headstones in the hole. A lot of those graves, when they dug them they didn't cover them. They just dug them out because there was a lot of pits up there. There's still quite a lot of old stone and it was a crime that they didn't at least try to save the stone. The present owner, their name is Francis, the last name is, owns the property today.

Kathy: Where does your cousin come in?

Hutch: Oh, did I-

Kathy: I just, I really am anxious to find out.

Hutch: When my cousin came in?

Kathy: Your cousin, Bob. You know, cousin Bob?

Hutch: Oh, when he come in the picture. Okay.

Kathy: The world wants to know.

Hutch: I had 2 second cousins, Art and Joe, and they lived with their dad in Buena Vista, in the jail up there. Today, that's the administration building for the Buena Vista Public School.

Kathy: Oh, I know where that is. Right near the courthouse.

[00:29:00]

Hutch: Right near the courthouse. Right. When they were there, this Cummings came out there to visit them and they took him on some burro trip and maybe horseback into the nearby country mountains. His mother was a sister to Joseph Sykes Hutchinson.

Kathy: Joseph Sykes Hutchinson?

Hutch: Joseph Sykes, who was my great grandfather. Captain Joseph Sykes, of Civil War fame or whatever. Bob Cummings' father was a medical doctor in Joplin, Missouri and he had married Joseph Sykes' sister and Bob Cummings was a result of that.

[00:30:00]

I saw him one time. He came through in kind of a station wagon in about 1933 I think it was. I remember I was a boy. I'd have been about 9 years old. I just went up there and more or less peeked in the window at him, but my father and mother went up to see him and visit him. I guess he was, by then, Cummings had become rather popular. Cummings himself had been sent to England, where he studied theater and acting and stuff. He went by some kind of stage name. Bruce Hutchins. Not Hutchinson but Bruce Hutchins.

When he got back here and started, he changed his name back to Cummings and he had the Robert Cummings Show. It was on the air for several years.

[00:31:00]

Kathy: I remember it. Yeah, on television. It was on TV, right?

Hutch: On TV, yeah. He was supposed to be a comedian then. I remember one movie he starred in with Ronald Reagan called, "So Red the Rose," I believe it was.

Kathy: Red the Rose.

Hutch: "So Red the Rose."

Kathy: So Red the Rose.

Hutch: As I remember it.

Kathy: I'll have to see if that's at the flick shop.

Hutch: What?

Kathy: We should see if it's at the flick shop and we can watch it again. So Red the Rose. Do you hear from any of his family or that was about your only connection with him when you saw him?

Hutch: [00:32:00] My one cousin Joe, who was actually born in Minturn in 1910 and Art was born up there in 1912. They had a sister Annabelle, named after my great grandmother. She was born there in Minturn too in 1913. As far as I know, she married a guy from Fort Collins who became, he was a military man, and more recent one.

Kathy: This is Annabelle?

Hutch: Yeah.

Kathy: This Annabelle?

Hutch: My cousin Annabelle. Married Ivan Dykeman.

Kathy: Ivan Dykeman.

Hutch: Ivan Dykeman. He was quite an athlete. I remember one time in the yard, my cousin Art and Dykeman was there. Art was like, "I bet you can't jump that fence," and it was about 6-foot tall. He just ran back there a little ways and jumped right over it.

Kathy: Was he in the Olympics?

Hutch: [00:33:00] I don't think he competed in the Olympics but he was a star athlete. I think he played football for, it was the Colorado Aggie's then. Colorado A&M. Dykeman had some children and one of those, there was a Joe Dykeman and he moved to, after he got out he went to vet school. I saw him only once. I saw him in a locker room there at CSU. I was about a senior and he was about a freshman. Anyway, this young Dykeman. I told him who I was and he was rather an unfriendly person. He moved up to Glendive, Montana. Practiced there for several years.

[00:34:00] I have a good friend, Dr. Gene Aby, who graduated a year after I did from CSU and was a star athlete for the Spartans down here. Doctor Aby. He's still there too at Glendive. Gene Aby grew up here down on the Starbuck dairy down there. He went to CSU. In fact, Aby and I roomed together on Matthews Street with an old couple there for a while, together. He joined Sigma Nu Fraternity. I couldn't take the frat life because I had to study too much. I kind of, and he went his way. We still communicate.

[00:35:00] This young Dykeman went up there and got a job with Aby and they were partners for a bit. Then they split. Matter of fact, young Dykeman got hurt badly with a horse and was not able to practice. Aby said that put a big strain on him, but I guess now some other vets moved into the area, too. Aby's not overworked, after all. He was for a while, I guess.

Kathy: Oh, so he's your age, right?

Hutch: Yeah, he Gene Aby is my age. He was in fact a classmate. We graduated from high school together in 1942. Gene went over in Pando, you've heard of Pando Flat?

Kathy: No.

Hutch: Up on the other side of Leadville. That's where the 10th Mountain Division was trained for the war.

Kathy: Oh, okay.

Hutch: You've probably heard of the 10th Mountain?

Kathy: Yes, yes.

[00:36:00] Hutch: Become rather famous. They fought in Italy, but Gene's job was to train mules. They used these mules to pack the guns and stuff in there when they fought in Italy. Something about the 10th Mountain, they took on a bunch of Germans in some high country there in Northern Italy. They kind of won the battle, 10th Mountain.

Aby was in that, but when the war was over he went back and kind of finished at CSU then, while it was still A&M and graduated in vet medicine. He graduated in 1950. I graduated in '49.

Kathy: Can you think of any other stories?

Hutch: Stories?

Kathy: Tell me a story. A true story.

Hutch: A true story? Oh, did I not hear a backdrop?

Kathy: Not yet. Not yet.

Hutch: Not yet. To tell you a true story, huh?

Kathy: Yeah.

Hutch: Tell me a story before I go to bed.

Kathy: We're not very well prepared are we? This is going to be story time tape. Maybe just some things that happened on the ranch. Something funny.

[00:37:00]

Hutch: Something funny?

Kathy: Yeah.

Hutch: Think of a lot of bad things that happened that weren't so funny.

Kathy: Well, okay, if you don't mind talking about them. There's some things that had to do with your practice that was unusual.

Hutch: When I got out of vet school I moved to Gunnison. My wife and I, Sue, moved to Gunnison where we practiced over there. Have I already said that?

Kathy: Yeah, but if you've got a good story up your sleeve I'll listen again.

Hutch: We moved to Gunnison that year. One of the big problems in the Gunnison country it was all Herefords and you had to take the cancer eyes out of the cows because they have no pigment much around the eye. Hereford cow is a white-faced animal, brown body, kind of tan and has a white crest on his neck. Usually, sometimes white legs and white under markings. Those are the Herefords. Kind of an English breed. Became very popular in the west. Today, they are not as popular because they got inbred pretty bad and lost their sight and now we can't craft other breeds to get them up to where they weigh something.

[00:38:00]

We've crossed Herefords with Limousins, Gelbvieh, Simmental, and other breeds to get some size into them. Another thing, too, later by selective breeding some ranchers have gotten the Hereford cow back to a pretty decent size, also.

[00:39:00]

One incident I remember going on. I had to take out 3 cancer eyes out of a rancher's cow on the Sun Crest Ranch. I was driving along the road up there I thought oh my God. I look back that and see if I had tools in the car, or instruments to do it. When I did I drove off the road. I had to walk back into Gunnison, have a wrecker come out and tow me out. Fortunately it didn't ruin the car much.

Kathy: That was the same car that you put all of your equipment in the trunk? The drugs and everything?

Hutch: Right.

Kathy: Oh no.

Hutch: The car I took on my honeymoon, did I tell you that? Took the car on my

honeymoon and had a bend in the fender?

Kathy: What'd you do? That you can tell us?

[00:40:00]

Hutch: Finally there at Gunnison I went back and got the instruments, got the guy to pull me out and I got there late and of course he was upset and was kind of mad but I did, I went ahead and got the eyes out and the cows all lived.

Kathy: You actually take the eyes out?

Hutch: Take the eyes out. Part of the lids, too, and sew it back together again. Unless the cancer's real advanced, in fact if it is right in the eyeball you really get rid of all of it but if it's growing back on the side and in the bone, it's not so successful an operation.

Kathy: That was a disease just those Herefords got?

[00:41:00] Hutch: Cancer of the eye is kind of a disease, another thing that happened, they got a disease called Brisket disease, it's a high altitude heart disease. When the heart would go bad then they get a lot of swelling in their brisket under their throat and in what we call the brisket, down between their legs and even under their belly. In the inside they'd be full of fluid because the heart wasn't pumping efficiently. That's the thing with them, if you get them to a lower altitude, many times they get over it, so taking them lower was kind of the answer. Save a lot of cows. If a calf got brisket disease you didn't save many of them.

Kathy: Was it hard? Oh, did you think of something else?

Hutch: No, go ahead.

[00:42:00] Kathy: I was just going to ask, how was it taking care of animals and having them die on you? Did you get, I mean there were cows and herds and things. You didn't really get personally attached to any of those, did you?

Hutch: You probably didn't get personally attached to the cows. The owners did, especially dairy, dairy cows. They milk them, they get attached to them but the pet owners are the ones that get, I might even say silly about their dog. They'd spend anything to get that dog well.

[00:43:00] In Gunnison, there were dogs on ranches and we would carry vaccine with us, rabies vaccine and distemper, distemper and hepatitis, leptospirosis, influenza and parvo vaccine with us, and vaccinate the cattle out on the ranches. Then people in town would bring them in too and we'd spay the animal and take out the uterus and the ovaries and castrate most of the male dogs. If they were hit with a car most of the times had to sew them up, sew up the cuts, set the broken legs, put them in casts, splints, different things to fix them back up again.

Kathy: Mainly to prolong their life, they couldn't really work the ranch anymore, could they?

Hutch: Yeah, to prolong their life. Dog cemetery I got down here is I started it about 1955. It grew to now I think there's over 250, 300 dogs in there, and cats buried there in the cemetery because people love their pets and they wanted to do something to memorialize them. Some bring flowers and some, most people don't. Once they're buried there they just forget them, finally.

[00:44:00]
Kathy: Your animals out there?

Hutch: What?

Kathy: Any your animals out there?

Hutch: Yeah, there's a few. At least some dogs were buried there. My daughter Lisa had 2 different cats buried in there. Lisa's coming home this weekend.

Kathy: Does she go visit her-

Hutch: Go visit the cats and take a flower down, probably. Yeah, she thought a lot of her cats. She lives up in Alaska where she has a couple cats. Doesn't have any dogs.

Kathy: Too many bears in Alaska?

Hutch: What?

Kathy: There's too many bears in Alaska.

Hutch: You've been up there?

Kathy: Alaska? Yes. Yes.

Hutch: In Anchorage?

Kathy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hutch: When was that?

[00:45:00]
Kathy: 1968.

Hutch: 1968?

Kathy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hutch: Just one year?

Kathy: I was only there for about 2 weeks.

Hutch: 3 weeks?

Kathy: 2 weeks.

Hutch: I see. You have a friend up there or something or-

Kathy: No, that's where my ex-husband was from.

Hutch: Oh, your ex-husband.

Kathy: We went up there to see his parents.

Hutch: See his parents?

Kathy: Yes.

Hutch: What was his business?

Kathy: He's an architect.

Hutch: Architect, I see.

Kathy: He still is. Can you think of anymore stories because we're kind of running out of-

Hutch: Time?

Kathy: Time and space.

Hutch: [00:46:00] Another story I thought might be of interest, Roy Jones and I, Roy Jones is a neighbor of mine and I sometimes take him with me to help me help with some projects and something I was doing. As I was going up north of Cotopaxi, there was a man told me to stop. He said, "I've got a sick cow, I'd like to have you look at it." I said, "Well I'm going out to Rusty Ross's place up there, I'll just stop and see her."

This man, his name was Bill Shanks. Anyway, his cow had, I know he had one cow but I don't think he had many others. Anyhow, this cow was real sick and Bill standing there and you could see her backbone, she was breathing hard. Almost every time she'd breathe, she'd grunt. I said, "I don't think I can save her," but I said, "I guess I'll try."

[00:47:00] I hooked her up with an IV, giving her some IV and all of a sudden she just fell over dead. He says, "God damn it, doc, you killed my cow." I said, "Well, we'll just have to open her up and see what she did die." I cut her open and

[00:48:00] performed an autopsy. To that you have to spread of course the front legs and back legs over the back, it's kind of a tedious job. I noticed out there outside the room was lots of ingested feed, and I suspected she had hardware trouble. I told him I think hardware. What we mean by hardware is they swallow something like a screw, nail, something, punctures out of the first part of their stomach is a reticulum, that's built like a honeycomb.

In fact, baling wire was especially bad. Some balers use to cut off of it. They'd tie the knot around the bale and then that wire would fall in.

Kathy: Fall in the hay.

[00:49:00] Hutch: Usually they counted over from one to the other because they had to wire in the hay. That part's a lot of hard work. In this particular case I found in there a lady's hatpin. It was about oh, 6, 7, 8" long. Even had the feathers on it. This cow had swallowed that lady's hatpin and it stuck out of the reticulum, up into the diaphragm, up into the heart sac. I said, I told him, I said, I showed him the hatpin, I said, "This is what killed your cow, it wasn't me." He kind of apologized a little bit. I went on my way.

Kathy: Why do you think the cow just dropped over dead so fast?

Hutch: That's why he thought I'd killed her. I don't remember having a lot of trouble, she was so sick. Sometimes the excitement is enough to kill a cow.

Kathy: Just the change.

[00:50:00] Hutch: The change. Anyway, another strange thing on that particular trip I went up to this man, Rusty Ross's place and his father's name was Marion Ross. And Roy told me, "I helped Marion Ross one time," he said he branded a bunch of cows, and he said when I got through I left and I came back to Salida. He said Ross forgot to open the gate out of the corral, and there was no water in the corral. My dad, I think he lost something like 8 or 10 cows because he didn't come back for 2 weeks.

Kathy: Oh no.

Hutch: They stayed there all that time without water and feed. They starved to death.

Kathy: That was cash in the bank for those people.

[00:51:00] Hutch: Another interesting case, a man came over from Westcliffe and his cows, one of his cows, slobbering, slobbering, slobbering. Something's wrong. He said there's something wrong. We brought her down and put her in one of my chutes down her, pulled her head out, put a mouth speculum in there, pry the mouth open then you could get your hand in. I reached in there and I looked in her mouth, it was a flattened beer can. It was really stuck in there. I had to get a pair of pliers on it to pull it out.

Kathy: Oh for heaven's sakes.

Hutch: Anyway the cow got home, eventually got the beer can out.

Kathy: No more drooling and slobbering. Oh come on, you're coming up with some really good stories, I want to hear more. I know they're all true, right?

Hutch: Yes, they're all true. Let me see if there's any other interesting-

Kathy: What about you were talking about people who have cared so much for their pets. Can you think of an incident one time when a pet was gravely ill and how far an owner went to save it's life that you thought might be extreme?

[00:52:00]

Hutch: There were many instances like that where you had to spend or use a lot of drugs and care and then sometimes perform surgery. They didn't all live either, by any chance but saved a lot of them. A lot of them lived. Automobiles probably killed more dogs and cats than anything. Pets that you have out on the street, getting run over and smashed.

[00:53:00] On the one instance I remember out here in my little clinic I was operating on a dog that was extremely bloated. I went in with, it was pyometra, the womb was full of pus. It was just, there's 2 horns to the uterus. Both of them big around as my arm, the dog had been sick for some time and had been treated I think by another vet.

Anyway I took those out. Just as I got them out that damn thing broke and it really stinks, really smells badly, like a dead animal. I lose that one. That one died.

Kathy: She was quite ill.

Hutch: The owner was pretty disturbed when it died. I don't know if I buried that dog in the cemetery or not but she was a female. I just told them I said, "You should've spayed this dog years ago," and that made them mad, too. I said yeah, I can see why, if I'd taken her uterus out she would've never had this problem either.

[00:54:00]

Kathy: He didn't leave as a friend?

Hutch: He didn't leave as a friend, yeah.

Kathy: I think our time is up again. You have to think this week. Write down little hints of your stories and then next time.

Hutch: Some other? Okay.

Kathy:

I bet you have a full barrel full. I mean the minute I turn this tape off you're going to tell me another one and I will hear it. Thanks once again and we are signing off for now and we'll get back to Hutch next week. Thanks.